



Seattle Light Rail Review Panel

Comments on...

Aerial Guideway Design

Scope Briefing

From the March 24, 1999 meeting:

- The LRRP would like to see the analysis that determined the guideway elements in more detail and better understand the reasons Sound Transit chose the configuration it did.
- All of the Sound Transit design options present the aerial guideway as a huge street in the air, and seem to overlook the opportunity to see it as a bridge— literally a bridge between communities.
- The catenary system should be revisited in order to better integrate it with the more massive column and guideway elements.
- The idea of rhythm could be expressed in a stronger and more creative way.
- The lighting of the guideways will be very important and should be explored further.
- The contrast between the heavy guideway and column structure with the light catenary system is so marked; perhaps Sound Transit could explore other methods of linking the two systems and materials.

Concept Design

From the April 14, 1999 meeting:

- Scheme A should be taken off the table as a basic, engineered design that is not acceptable given our goal to design to a higher standard. Although budget is a concern, Scheme A should not represent the "baseline" from which all other schemes are judged over budget. For example, Scheme H might be the base, showing that Scheme A would cost less and Scheme I would cost more.
- At the April 28th LRRP meeting there should be visuals to show the artists' concepts; not just written narrative.
- Continue to pursue using, or expressing the ideas of, light and water in the concepts, along with integration of the elements of the total guideway.
- Pay particular attention to the straddle bents and signage/navigation issues. If designed to do so, the T-bent could lend a sense of motion to the guideway, and thus express movement and direction and serve as a subtle navigation tool.
- The consultants and Sound Transit are encouraged to spend no more time on Scheme A than necessary.

From the April 28, 1999 meeting regarding artists' concepts:

- The artists and architects should focus on what can be done to influence the design over the next few weeks to strengthen the sense of movement and rhythm and to lend elegance to the structure.
- Start now to develop ideas for special locations in tandem with or advance of engineering— not after those structures have already been designed— in order to avoid a circumstance in which the engineered design dominates over other design possibilities.
- Bring concepts into the overall design now to get art concepts out in advance of engineering.
- Where there will be people underneath the guideway, find ways to address the underside of the guideway.